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Information about the ancestors
relatives and descendants of
Martha Branch Stickney

by
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Information gathered by Maurice Coburn about the ancestors, relatives and descendants of his maternal grandmother, Martha Branch Stickney.

It is not complete or uniform. I have gotten what I could from the Indiana State library. Members of the family have been helpful in various ways.

The ancestors include the names of Stickney, Cleveland, Branch and Munger. All apparently came to Massachusetts in the seventeenth century.

William Stickney, born in 1592, settled in the northeast corner of Massachusetts in Rowley in 1635. He is presumed to be the ancestor of most of that name in this country. In a book in the library there is a picture of a granite shaft erected to his memory on the two hundredth anniversary of his death in 1662.

I found no early record of the Branch family in New England. Christopher Branch came to Virginia in 1623 and has many descendants in the south but I doubt that we are descended from him.

I have no early information of the Munger family.

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Moses Cleveland came over in 1635. That was also the name of the founder of the city of Cleveland. I remember when a statue to his honor was put in the Public Square. His daughter Sarah was married to my great-great grandfather Reuben Stickney in Bath, N.H.

He was born in New Hampshire in ¹⁷⁶¹1785. He was a major in the revolutionary war in 1781 and 82. With his younger brother Moses he moved to Sweden, N.Y. probably soon after 1800. Sweden is in the western part of Monroe county west of Rochester and near Brockport. He died in 1828. I have the deed for the lot in the Sweden cemetery bought by his son.

His oldest child was Lydia, born in 1785. She probably went to York in Ohio with her brother Reuben in 1830. She married a Gardner and died in York in 1863.

The next in the family was Reuben, born in 1787, a major in the war of 1812. He married Lucia Munger. In a box with old letters and family papers I have over a hundred of his business documents, many receipts for money paid, deeds and contracts, starting with 1816 in Sweden continued in Medina Co., Ohio and later in Cleveland and Brooklyn.

¹⁸³⁰
In April 1830 a citizen of Sweden was one of the first settlers in York township, Medina Co. Ohio, about twenty five miles south of Cleveland. In October of that year seven families from Sweden followed him there. They included Reuben Stickney, Levi Branch, Lawson Branch and E. Munger. The trip probably was in covered wagons behind ox teams.

The families were left in Medina, the county seat while the men went out to build log cabins. The township had been surveyed and was held for sale by speculators for from 25 cents to one dollar an acre. It was heavily wooded and there were no roads except a highway across the county which was in such shape the wagons were liable to sink to their hubs in the mud.

In the library there is a thick book, published in 1881, telling of the early history of Medina county, with many interesting stories of the pioneer life, of how they helped each other and built a sound community; a situation that developed men of character, much different from our present decline. We forget how young this country is.

The northeastern corner of Ohio was the Western Reserve of Connecticut. I have in the past had the idea that our ancestors had lived in Connecticut but in this project have run across no evidence to that effect. The Western Reserve was studded with Congregational churches, evidence of the influence from Connecticut. The people in York had a Congregational church and my mother raised us in that faith.

Gen Room
Stickney
family

My grandmother, Martha Branch, was the step-daughter of Levi Branch, who married her mother, Polly Branch in 1834. She came from Worthington, Mass. And, her, a second wife. Grandmother told of coming to Ohio in a covered wagon, behind an ox team, the trip taking about a month.

Levi Branch was apparently a leader, with the most means of the group. He had the only stove at the start and later the first team. His son taught the first school in their cabin and later in the first log cabin school. Grandmother taught the first classes in the first frame school building.

She had a twin sister who went to Hawaii, undoubtedly in connection with the Congregational missions. There she married into the important Castle family. I have nothing in writing about her except in some notes my mother made. Samuel Northrop Castle, born in 1808, went out to Hawaii with the missions and later was given an important post in the local government. She was not his wife unless a second one. There is record of four sons, "all philanthropic" but they were considerably younger than the sister.

Grandmother who was born in 1811, probably in Northampton, Mass., had an older brother, born in 1802 and graduated from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. He was a teacher and at the head of various seminaries and academies. In 1856 he moved to Iowa and taught there and in other adjoining states. I have the newspaper obituary when he died in 1895 at the age of 93, highly respected. I well remember his visit to grandmother while she was living with us.

I found a note of another brother, Alfred. Pierces in Oberlin and Piqua, Ohio were accredited to him. My mother had contact with them. And a sister, Libby who married another Gardner and was the mother of four, including Clarke and Frank who we used to see occasionally. They lived in Manistee and Pentwater, Michigan, respectively, on Lake Michigan.

In 1835 Reuben bought for \$5000 farm land in Brooklyn, adjacent to Cleveland on the south on the west side. The papers I have include other real estate dealings in the neighborhood and also an investment in Milwaukee. He probably came up to Brooklyn at that time. Later he operated the Capital hotel on Ontario St. north of the Cleveland Public Square. One record speaks about the City Hotel. Son Hamilton worked with him.

I had an account book full of entries of sales, including whiskey at seven cents a gill. Among my papers is an inventory of the hotel furnishings. The account book has been sent to cousin Louise Stellwagen in Seattle along with two small books with very fine print, sermons of Cotton Mather and a life of John B. Gough, the early temperance advocate, belonging to my grandparents, respectively.

Reuben had nine children of whom five grew to maturity, William Henry, my grandfather, born in 1812, Cleveland, Carver, Amanda, married name Lockwood, lived in Racine, Wis. and Hamilton not born till 1812. 1824

William was married to Martha Branch about 1834. They stayed on his farm in York until after Lucia was born in 1841, when he came up to his father's farm in Brooklyn. It was divided with Carver. After his father's death in 1845 William bought the farm, including Carver's part from the other heirs. I have the deeds. Reuben was buried in the cemetery in Brighton, south of Brooklyn. I have the deed for the lot. His wife, Lucia, in 1948 built a house in the city on what was then State St. now 29th, the first house north of Franklin Ave. We saw it recently and it is in good repair.

Carver served as justice of the peace with an office at 236 Superior St. while living in Brooklyn and in Brighton. He had two sons, Reuben and Ira and a daughter.

Cleveland stayed on the father's farm in York. His daughter Elvira stayed at one time with Aunt Jane Mclauchlan and we used to see her. Married later. Another daughter, Emma, Mrs. Sutton Young lived at one time in Kenton, Ohio where he was district attorney and at one time a member of the legislature. In 1906 they lived in Hiram, Ohio. I remember one of the two sons, Allyn, I believe teaching in college.

I remember Hamilton and his white beard. I have pleasant recollections of his wife Christiana and the daughter Renoa who was often at our house. She died in 1948. Mother kept in touch with her brother, Fred who died in 1945, aged 85. Recently I have seen his attractive son, Isaac, a lawyer in Cleveland. He has helped in this enterprise. A son F. Hamilton is associated with him.

In 1852 William was killed by a kick from his horse in front of his mother's house. Grandmother moved into the house with her mother-in-law with her five children and stayed there until after my mother was married about 1874. Then she went to live with daughter Jane McLauchlan and stayed there until they moved to Chicago in 1889, when she came to our house. She died in 1893. She was a good grandmother, never interfered, quiet, with an occasional joke. I well remember how she looked, walking home from church on a cold day with a long shawl about her. Her gifts to the church were such that she was supposed to be rich.

The children were Erastus, born in 1835, George in 38, Lucia in 41, Jane in 44 and Helen Adelaide in 49.

Erastus was a civil engineer with a black beard. He bought a small farm in Iowa in 1860. During the war he worked on fortifications in Washington. In 1862 he was stricken with typhoid and came home to Cleveland and died there.

GEORGE STICKNEY FAMILY

George at one time worked in Columbus, Ohio. A good part of my life I have used the four poster bed which he had there, and now have it. There is a story that his friend Artemus Ward, the nationally known humorist, came down from Cleveland to see him, that they got Howell, the novelist and spent Saturday afternoon watching Heenan, the prizefighter getting ready for a contest, important enough to be pictured in Harper's Weekly.

At one time George was clerk on a lake passenger steamer. Most of his life he ran the bank in Grand Haven, Mich. on Lake Michigan while the good white pine was being cut. When the younger generation got control he was too conservative to suit and he was asked to resign. But he refused and they fired him.

His wife died after their daughters, Louise and Marion were born and he married her sister who died before many years. After she graduated from college Louise kept house for him, until he left Grand Haven. We children loved to visit there. He wandered around in Texas and California and once came to see me in Terre Haute. Then he opened a bank in Lyons, Colorado a small town down from Estes Park. He was a man of very unusual quality, wise, with a houseful of books. He used to read aloud to the family. It was my good privilege to keep in touch with him and to see him occasionally. I still have some of his letters.

His daughter Louise became a high school teacher of English and was in St. Louis while we were there. After retirement she lived in Ann Arbor and died there, maybe ten years ago.

Marion, married Marvin Turner in Grand Haven. Her health was not good and they went to Colorado and lived with her father. After he died Marvin took over the bank until Marion died and then went back to Grand Haven. He is dead.

Their daughter Louise, married a successful oculist, Wm. Stellwagen, established in Seattle for some years. We, my Louise and I, had a fine visit there in 55 and I another in 59. Their son William Turner, wife Berta Simpson is an assistant professor in psychology in the college in Bozeman, Montana. They have children. His brother Marvin Alan is a senior at the University of Washington.

Louise's brother George Lynn Turner and wife Nella live in Berthold, Colorado. He has a motel and a filling station.

Lucia Stickney never married, a high school teacher in Cincinnati for many years, came back to Cleveland after father died and lived with mother, teaching English in West High school. She died in 1917. She was always doing things for her nephews and nieces.

JANE STICKNEY McLAUCHLAN FAMILY

Jane worked for the Plain Dealer, then as now, the leading Cleveland newspaper, and then married John McLauchlan, a Scotchman from Canada, a steel salesman and later credit man for Republic Steel in Chicago. He died about 1912. He was a merry person. I remember meals at their house, full of laughter. On the hundredth anniversary of her birth the preacher had printed a short story about her. He said that their home was both a chapel and a vaudeville stage. That they two shared a devastating sense of humor.

They had six children, Martha, William, Anna, Walter, Ruth and Margaret.

Martha, born about 1869 was married early to Dr. Harry Parsons. Their children, were Lois, a step child, Harry, Robert, Winifred, John, Elizabeth(Betty) and the twins, Marion and Margaret.

Lois married Edgar Phillips a lawyer. They lived in Florida in later years. She was killed there several years ago in an automobile accident. They had two sons, the older a decorator in Cleveland.

Harry after a course in agriculture at Illinois and a try at farming in Dakota, became a successful dentist in Chicago. He is married.

Robert, a navy doctor, became captain of one of the big navy hospital ships in the war and later, if my memory is correct, in charge of the college at the Bethesda, Md. naval medical center near Washington. Now retired, he lives at Carmel, Cal. He has two married daughters.

Winifred Healey and Betty live in the family home, giving their mother, Martha, who is over ninety, well earned care. Winifred is a busy person, doing some private teaching, and with outside interests. Her daughter Susan, Mrs. Seville Sax was graduated from the Teachers college as a school librarian. The husband has a recent master's degree from the University of Chicago. They have three children.

John, after practicing Dentistry in Chicago now lives in LaJolla, Cal. He has married daughters.

Betty, unmarried, is interested in music. Margaret, Mrs. Robert Belt lives in Winnetka, Ill. and Marion, Mrs. Crawford Staley lives in Tarpon Springs, Fla. They both have grown children.

William H. McLauchlan was a unique character. He travelled in his college vacations, among other things going to Europe on a cattle boat and working his way back. He studied chemistry in Breslau, Germany, where he met his future wife who was the daughter of his boarding house keeper. They were married here later.

For a while he taught at Princeton and left, as he told president Woodrow Wilson, when the fine environment was a luxury that he could no longer afford. From there he went to Solvay Process at Syracuse. There at an early automobile race, attended by President Taft, he was killed by machine crashing into the stand.

The Parsons boys followed his example and went far afield during their college vacations and Winifred, tiring of teaching in Kansas spent a winter in Fairbanks, Alaska where, I have been told, it was cold enough so that when the dish water was thrown out the back it froze and struck the ground with a clatter.

Will had two daughters, Mrs. J. R. Atwater in Spring Grove, Pa., near York and Mrs. J. R. Sands in the family home in Syracuse.

The Syracuse paper devoted an editorial to him upon his death, quite unusual since he had lived there not many years.

"a man of such extraordinary usefulness and promise → held in high esteem by the Solvay Process Company which had placed upon him tasks requiring uncommon talent,- Dr. McLauchlan was no less well known by reason of the numbers of his friends and

for the social talents he possessed. Kindliness and good nature with a native humor which made him one of the most delightful informal speakers and entertainers in the city".

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ANNA McLAUCHLAN LEHMAN FAMILY

Anna, born in 1875, was an able person. After college at Ann Arbor she married Wilmer Lehman, a doctor missionary, and went with him to a French possession on the west coast of Africa. After their retirement they lived in Wooster, Ohio and later in South Pasadena, Cal. She died only this year. They had five children, Paul, a wanderer who disappeared, and very likely died in the flu epidemic after the first world war, Elizabeth, a pastor's assistant in a church in Pasadena, Sanford, Mary Alice and Stephen.

Sanford, a doctor was at the head of the health department in Vancouver, Washington, across the river from Portland and won recognition for handling flood relief there. He is now head of the health department of Seattle with a staff of four hundred. He married Constance Jones in 1938. She brought along a four year old son, Richard, now recently married. They have two sons, Ross born in 39 and Ronald in 41. When possible they all go skiing together.

Mary Alice Lehman went to Canton, China to teach in a Presbyterian Girl's School. There she married Werner Brunke, a German electrical engineer salesman. Before the war they came to this country and are now living in South Pasadena in the former home of her parents. Their daughter Marianne is now in Seattle, finishing her last year in college, formerly living with Sanford.

Stephen, a doctor in the naval reserve was killed on the island of Saipan, not far from Guam, in July 1944. He was given the award of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal. He voluntarily went into heavy fire where he worked for twenty days. The citation said that he rendered invaluable service in giving medical aid to wounded men and in reducing casualties under extremely difficult conditions; that his outstanding skill and self-sacrificing spirit, reflect great credit upon him.

Walter McLauchlan died in his early twenties of tuberculosis.

Ruth McLauchlan, unmarried, lives with her sister Margaret in Birmingham, the Detroit suburb. An unconventional person who shared in the family humor.

Margaret McLauchlan Stoner, the youngest of the good family met her husband Gordon in Ann Arbor. He started in at law but finally became operating vice-president of the important Midland Steel Co. with plants in Detroit and Cleveland. He died about ten years ago. Her daughter, Jan Stoner Curtis is the wife of an air pilot, living at Alexandria, Va. near Washington and has two boys. At one time they were stationed in Ethiopia. Her brother John is engaged in nursery work near Detroit and has a son and daughter.

HELEN ADELAIDE STICKNEY COBURN FAMILY

My mother, Addie, did a little school teaching and married Forrest A. Coburn, who was born in Lowell, Mass. After the civil war his father bought a small farm in what is now Lakewood, the Cleveland suburb, and filled it with fruit. We spent our summers there.

Father was one of the two leading architects in Cleveland. When he died in 1897 after a long illness he had won a highly respected place in the city. He was of the finest quality and we have reason to be proud of him. Recently son Forrest and I have seen together some of father's buildings that are left. Mother lived till April 1932, close to her church, and active till her final illness. In January of that year I was lucky to have ten days with her. We went about and saw old friends.

I was born in 1875 and graduated from Case, civil engineering, in 1897 just before father died. Had thirty four years in the engineering department of the Pennsylvania R. R., after that a contractor's agent for building and bridge repair and conductive floors.

My wife, Louise Garden, was the daughter of an engineer, engaged in construction for the Canadian Pacific R.R. He died on work up north of Lake Superior when she was six years old. There were three older brothers who all became architects. The mother gradually moved down to Chicago. Louise was operating a gift shop in St. Louis when I met her. We were married in 1912 and lived there until 1918 when I was transferred to Indianapolis. Louise died in 1957.

Our son, Forrest Edward, went to Antioch and later got his degree at Northwestern. He was in the navy for three years and rose to be executive officer on a transport. He now lives in Bryn Mawr, Pa. the Philadelphia suburb. He is a partner in a building contracting firm. His wife Maia Crane made her way as an advisor on the planting on the big estates in the local suburbs. They have two daughters, Carolyn about eleven and Letitia six.

My sister, Alice Lucia Coburn, born in 1876, an Oberlin graduate did some teaching. She married David Spaulding Hawkins. He died about seven years ago. At one time she lived with her sister Helen. She is now in Pasadena, Cal. Her daughter Helen Coburn Hawkins is with her.

My sister, Helen Whitmore Coburn was born in 1883. At one time her health was not too good and she stayed for a time with our Uncle George in Colorado. Later in California she married James W. Lawrence who had come there from Minneapolis, a graduate of the state university. They lived in the Los Angeles area. She died in 1951. He now lives with his daughter Lucia.

Lucia married Maurice Nugent, an important oculist in Los Angeles. They have three daughters, the oldest about eighteen. Unnecessarily she runs an important decorating business for the well-to-do, using the name of Lucia Lawrence. Recently a considerable column in the Los Angeles Times was devoted to her ideas about the use of color, some fine advertising.

Her brother, James Lawrence, Jr. lives down on Newport Bay with a boat and drives forty miles to the city where he has charge of the city mechanical equipment. He has two sons.

There were other connections in Medina county whose exact relationship I am unable to place.

Fanny Gardner a missionary to Japan whom I have seen and who brought back presents.

Root, the famous bee man was related. Edgar Phillips, Lois Parsons husband worked for him in his early days.

Nor can I place Kizzie Baird and Logan Baird, probably her son, ~~a tall man with a red beard~~ whom I have seen, who taught in Oberlin and West High and Ann Arbor.

We used to hear a good deal about Robert Logan, a missionary to the south seas and his sailing vessel. He brought back fine shells. Aunt Lucia gave a cabinet full of them to West High School. There were adopted children a son and daughter. At one time in Cincinnati Aunt Lucia kept Buelah, the daughter for a while.

As I have seen my immediate ancestors and their close relatives live their lives out without any let down in their independence and in their urge to do their part and more; I have felt that we have a fine inheritance.

More copies are available if desired.

410 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis 9, Ind.

Maurice Coburn

October, 1960



